workers can carry 100 kilograms, Colombia construction workers 50 kilograms, Finnish packers 40 kilograms and Republic of Korea rice workers 4d kilograms.

In 1967 the ILO recommended a maximum of 55 kilograms to be manually transported by an adult male worker. But this ceiling has yet to become a universal norm.

Existing rules allow men to carry loads ranging from 45 kilograms in th? German Democratic Republic to 56 kilograms in Mexico, 80 kilograms in China and 90 kilograms in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

More countries have adopted limitations for women workers thau for men End the weight celiing is substantially lower. In Japan it is 30 kilograms for intermittent work and 20 kilograms. or continuous work. In the Federal Republic of Germany occasional load carrying by women cannot exceed 15 kilograms and frequent lifting 10 kilograms. Thailand has set a limit of 30 kilograms, the Philippines 25 kilograms, Pakistan 23 kilograms, and Chechoslovakia and the USSR 15 kilograms.

The study notes that in certain countries limits on load lifting and carrying were adopted early in the cemitry and are being replaced by good working piaclice. These include Belgium, Chile, Cyprus, France, Hong Kong. Italy, Malta, Mexico, Portugal, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the USSR and parts of Australia and the United States.

In the industrialised countries mechanisation has generally rep! iced manual transport. Also there is a greater understanding of physiological, biomechanical and ergonomic factors. "The causes of back injuries and other health problems associated with physical activity are better known and the value of training and correct kinetic techniques in lifting and carrying have been recognised", the report says.

Recently the concept of maximum load has become more complex. In addition to the weight lifted and carrhd, other conditions such as the distance, the slope involved, the rate of energy, expenditure, the percentage of time spent on manual transport and the total load. >f the work-shift have to be considered. Furhter more the size of the load, the case of grip, the symmetry of effort and the ambient temperature play a role in the evaluation of the physical effort.

Strict observance of a load ceiling—suitably adjusted to the age, sex and physique of the worker and to the general working environment—can substantially reduce back injuries at the workplace, says George Kliesch, Director of the ILO's Working Conditions ind Environment Department. In can also sav; hundreds of millions of dollars (a compensation payments as well as prolong; d suffering for the victims.

Cyclone relief fund from U. K.

2064. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

fa) whether it is a fact that British Government have provided grants of £. 65, 000 (over Rs. 18. 5 lakh) for emergency relief work in Andhra Pradesh following the devastating cyclone in the State in May this year;

(b) whether similar cyclone relief funds have also heen received from other countries; if so, the total relief fund received from other countries; if so, the total relief fund received from different countries; and

(c) the manner in which the relief funds have been and are being spent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NTTISH KUMAR): (a) t_0 (c) The information is bein$_7$ collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

National Commission on Urbanisation

2065. SHIV pRATAP MlSHRA:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister Of URBAN DEVE-LOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Urbanisation in its report submitted January, 1987, has underlined the importance of developing the small towns and cities with a view to preventing concentration of population in the Cities and metropolises;

(b) if so, what steps are being contemplated under the 8th Five Year Plan and what schemes have been laid down for developing the small towns and Cities, in the light of the said report; and

(c) the main recommendations and observations made in the N. C. U. report, and the steps contemplated under the 8th E've Year Plan in the light thereof?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVE LOPMENT (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN); (a) The National Commision on Urbanisation in its report submitted in August, 1988 has underlined the im portance of developing the small towns and cities selectively with a view to pre venting c(incentration of population in the Cities and metropolises.

(b) Ttnre is an ongoing Centra] Scheme for the integrated development of small & medium towns. This will be continued in the 8th Five Year Plan.

(c) The main recommendations made by the Commission are as under:

(i) Identification of 329 urban centres whose economic and physical bases are to be consolidated strengthened and expanded.

(if) Efficient management of urban land in the cities and amendment of Urba,, Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act 1976.

(iii) Special schemes for amelioration of urban poverty with a view to create employment and shelter for the urban poor.

(iv) Recommendations on increasing the supply of serviced land and low cost shelter, improving and up grading slums and conserving the existing housing stock.

(v) Reorganisation of institutional arrangement for managing urban development at the central and State levels.

(vi) Increasing the plan allocation for urban development and expansion of the tax base and strengthening of the Municipal Administration of the local bodies.

(vii) Improving the Information System at the National level.

The recomendations of National Commission on Urbanisation (NCU) have been taken into consideration while preparing the report of the Working. Group in the context of the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

Scarcity and prices of edible oil

2066. SHRI SHIV PRATAP Ml-SHRA: DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY; SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Vanaspati Producers' Association (IVPA) has suggested a comprehensive scheme for tiding over the scarcity and rising prices of edible oils in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme, indicating the steps to be taken thereunder; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CTVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.